



City of San Diego

Transition to Strong Mayor Form of Government



Background

- Proposition F passed by more than 50% on November 2, 2004
- Mandates a 5-Year Trial Period
 - Begins January 1, 2006
 - Sunsets December 31, 2010
- Suspends Certain City Charter Sections
- Enacts New Provisions



Current Council-Manager System

- Mayor is a Member of the City Council
- City Council Governs and Sets Policy for the City
- City Council's Policies, Rules and Decisions are Implemented by the City Manager
- City Manager is Chief Executive Officer, Proposing the Annual Budget, and Runs Day-to-Day Affairs for the City



Strong Mayor Overview

- Also Referred to as "Mayor-Council" Form of Government
- City Council is an 8-Member Legislative Branch
- Mayor is the Executive Branch
- Mayor is No Longer a Member of the Council



Mayor's New Roles

- Becomes Chief Executive Officer of the City
- No Longer Member of Council
- Assumes Responsibilities Currently Held by the City Manager
- Responsible for the Day-to-Day Affairs of the City
- Veto Power over Certain Decisions



Mayoral Appointments

- Appoints City Manager, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Auditor, Treasurer and Members of City Boards and Commissions
- Hires and Fires All Other Department Heads Formerly under the City Manager
- Selects Representatives to Serve on Outside Boards and Agencies Unless Law Vests that Selection with the Council



City Council's New Roles

- Sets City Council Meeting Agendas
- Selects New Presiding Officer of the Council
- Establishes City Council Committees
- Sets New Permanent Rules of the City Council



City Council's New Roles – cont.

- Creates a New Office of the Independent Budget Analyst
- 5 votes Required for Most Legislation
- May Override Mayoral Veto with only 5 Votes



City Council Appointments

- Confirms Manager, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Auditor, Treasurer, and Members of City Boards and Commissions
- Hires and Fires Own Staff, City Clerk, and Independent Budget Analyst
- Police Chief and Fire Chief May Appeal Dismissal to Council
- Retains Right to Create Advisory Boards per Charter Section 43



Office of Independent Budget Analyst

- Appointed by the City Council
- Reviews Annual Budget Prepared by the Mayor
- Provides Independent Budget Information
- Manages and Controls an Office of Independent Budget Analyst
- Serves at the Pleasure of the Council



Independent Appointments

- Civil Service Commission Appoints the Personnel Director
- Ethics Commission Appoints Executive Director - Confirmed by Council
- Retirement Board Appoints Retirement Administrator



City Council - Open Session Meetings

- Council Sets the Legislative Agenda for the City
- Mayor May Make Recommendations to the Council, but No Longer Controls Docket
- Council's Presiding Officer Conducts Meetings of the Council
- Mayor Has Right to Attend, but Cannot Vote, Even with Tie-breaks



Closed Session Procedures

- Mayor, Presiding Officer of Council, and City Attorney Determine Closed Session Agenda Subject to Council Rules
- Mayor presides over Closed Session but Has No Vote and No Veto



Budget Approval Process

- Mayor Proposes Budget by April 15
- Council May Request Review by their Independent Budget Analyst
- Council Makes Final Decisions by June 15
- Mayor Has 5 Days to Veto and Council has 5 Days to Act
- Annual Appropriations Ordinance Approved in July



Mayor's Veto Power

- Can Veto Most Resolutions and Ordinances Approved by Council, except:
 - Council Procedures
 - Selection of Presiding Officer
 - Emergency Ordinances
 - Annual Appropriation Ordinance
 - Quasi-judicial Decisions (land use, CEQA, matters that require legal findings)

